

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-5, 7-19 and 21-36 are currently pending. Claims 1, 15, 29 and 33, which are independent, are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification, specifically on pages 7-8. Claims 6 and 20 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 14-19, 21, 22 and 28-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,796,828 to Tsukamoto et al. (hereinafter, merely "Tsukamoto") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,157,377 to Shah-Nazaroff et al. (hereinafter, merely "Shah-Nazaroff").

Claims 12, 13, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Tsukamoto in view of Shah-Nazaroff and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,588,015 to Eyer et al. (hereinafter, merely "Eyer").

Claims 9-11 and 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Tsukamoto in view of Shah-Nazaroff and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,790,236 to Hershtik et al. (hereinafter, merely "Hershtik").

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"An information recording apparatus comprising:

...fee charging means for charging when said first recording medium is unloaded by said unloading means;

selecting means for selecting quality of said information to be stored in said first recording medium by said information recording means; and

wherein said fee charging means varies the amount of charge according to the quality selected through said selecting means and dubbing information stored in said first recording medium, and

wherein said dubbing information comprises status information transmitted for conversion prior to said unloading."
(emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Tsukamoto relates to a controlled-access broadcast signal receiving system. An apparatus and method for transferring from a broadcaster to a receiver a limited reproduction right in data. A signal indicating the limited reproduction right is transmitted by the broadcaster and stored by the receiver with the data. The receiver reproduces and processes the data as the function of this signal.

As understood by Applicants, Shah-Nazaroff relates to purchasing upgraded media features for programming transmissions. An entertainment system includes a user interface from which a viewer selects an upgraded media feature for a programming

transmission, where the programming transmission with the upgraded media feature is provided to the entertainment system.

Applicants respectfully submit that Tsukamoto and Shah-Nazaroff, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the features of claim 1. Specifically, Applicants submit that there is no teaching or suggestion of an information recording apparatus wherein said fee charging means varies the amount of charge according to the quality selected through said selecting means and dubbing information stored in said first recording medium and wherein said dubbing information comprises status information transmitted for conversion prior to said unloading, recited in claim 1.

Indeed, Applicants submit that purchasing an upgraded media feature to receive a recordable version for an additional \$1.50 and also selecting an audio upgrade for \$0.50, as disclosed by Shah-Nazaroff, provides no disclosure of varying the amount of charge according to the quality of the dubbing information stored in a recording medium wherein said dubbing information comprises status information transmitted for conversion prior to said unloading.

Applicants' note that the other relied upon art does not disclose any feature pertaining to the aforementioned features of claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 15, 29 and 33 are also believed to be patentable.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 15, 29 and 33 are patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of the statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portion or portions of the reference or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

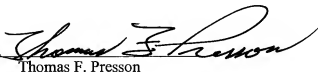
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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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